THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS

"The Collect Call of Cthulhu"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

PUSH IN on the imposing edifice, flanked by the two massive stone lions, as we hear:

KLEIN (V.O.)
I tell you, Ashton, no good can come of this.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. EXHIBIT HALL - ESTABLISHING

A clock on the wall indicates that it's nearly six o'clock. IN CENTER SHOT, flanked by walls of bookcases and reading tables, is a glass exhibit case containing a book. Two men stand beside the case. CLARK ASHTON is an official of the library, a large and imposing man. By contrast, TED KLEIN is shorter and stockier and wears glasses. He looks very professorial, which makes sense as he's a university professor. He's also somewhat upset. He gestures to the exhibit case.

KLEIN
Putting the Necronomicon on display like this is dangerous.

CLOSER - FAVORING *NECRONOMICON*

A massive tome, bound in leather with iron hasps, its name in red calligraphy. It looks quite sinister.

ASHTON
Nonsense, Klein. Maybe up in Arkham they still believe in spooks, but here in the big city we're a bit more ... sophisticated.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Ashton puts a hand on Klein's shoulder and guides the upset professor toward the door in b.g.

ASHTON (CONT'D)
Your precious book of spells will be quite safe here, I assure you.

PUSH IN on the book, which seems almost to glow with barely restrained eldritch power. Ashton and Klein EXIT, Ashton turning out the light(SFX: CLICK). The room is left in darkness, save for a beam of silvery moonlight from a nearby window that illuminates the book. PAN TO the clock on the wall, and --

MATCH-DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HALL - CLOSE ON CLOCK

The time is now nearly midnight. PAN SLOWLY to the window as we hear WET, SLOSHING FOOTSTEPS. We are TIGHT ON the window when something O.S. SHATTERS it, spraying glass into the room.

CUT TO:

INT. LIBRARY CORRIDOR

A NIGHT WATCHMAN is sauntering down the corridor; the O.S. SOUND OF BREAKING GLASS freezes him in mid-stride. He turns and hurries O.S.

INT. EXHIBIT HALL - ON DOOR

It swings open, revealing the watchman silhouetted by the hall light, his shadow stretching out before him. Another CRASH OF BREAKING GLASS is heard O.S.

WATCHMAN
Who's there?

He brings up his flashlight and SNAPS it on, aiming a beam of light O.S.

HIS POV - DARK ROOM

The flashlight beam searches this way and that, then illuminates the broken -- and empty -- display case. The *Necronomicon* is gone! There are wet, glistening footprints around it, and strands of what look like kelp hanging from one of the jagged walls of glass. SFX: SHUFFLING, WET FOOTSTEPS. A beat; then the beam moves up to the window, and we catch just a glimpse of the THING -- a huge creature, its skin a mottled green like verdigris. It DRIPS water, or slime, or something disgusting. We don't see its face, which is probably just as well. Just the merest glimpse, and then:

WATCHMAN (O.S.)
(cry of horror)

ON WATCHMAN

He drops the flashlight and slumps to the floor in a dead faint. The flashlight HITS the floor also, where it lies rocking back and forth, bathing the watchman's unconscious form in a shifting and uneasy light. HOLD SHOT; then --

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GHOSTBUSTERS' HQ - WIDE ANGLE - MORNING

PETER, RAY, EGON and WINSTON, all in civvies, are sitting around the table having coffee and danish while reading various parts of the *Sunday Times*. Ray's reading the news, Egon the business section, Winston the sports section, and Peter, of course, the funnies.

PETER
(chuckles)

CLOSER - FAVORING EGON

He glances disapprovingly at his colleague.

EGON
You really should read more of the paper than just the comics, Peter.

PETER
Hey, I love the funny pages. They make my life seem normal.

ON PETER

He dips his roll in coffee and lifts it to his mouth, preparing to take a big bite. Suddenly SLIMER shoots THROUGH SHOT, BITING off the entire roll a whisker from Peter's knuckles like an ectoplasmic shark. The little ghost zooms O.S.

SLIMER
(cackles)

Peter reacts in weary resignation. He drops the crumb Slimer left him back on the plate.

PETER
(to Egon)
See what I mean?

ON RAY

Perusing an inside page while he sips his coffee. Suddenly he sits up in surprise and excitement.

RAY
Hey! Listen to this!

WIDE ANGLE - ALL

The others look up in mild interest as Ray reads the article he's found.

RAY (CONT'D)
(reading)
"From Monday to Friday, by special permission of Miskatonic University, the New York Public Library presents --
(dramatic pause)
-- the Necronomicon!"

Egon reacts in wide-eyed surprise. Peter and Winston look at each other in bafflement.

WINSTON
I didn't know the library did rock concerts.

ANGLE FAVORS EGON

He takes the paper from Ray and reads it.

EGON
It's not a rock group, Winston. It's the single most powerful book of magic spells ever written.

ON RAY

Very jazzed about this.

RAY
H.P. Lovecraft and others wrote a whole series of horror stories based on it.

He leaps to his feet.

RAY (CONT'D)
Come on -- we've gotta see it! I'll bet the copyright page alone has a PKE valence of nine-point-nine!

ANGLE INCLUDES OTHERS

Peter rises as well, more languidly.

PETER
You go ahead, Ray. I've got a date today -- and she'll be here any minute, in fact.

CUT TO:

EXT. RECEPTION AREA - JANINE

JANINE is reading a book entitled *How to Change Careers*. The PHONE RINGS; she answers it absently.

JANINE
(bored)
Ghostbusters ... uh-huh. Hang on, help is on the way.

ANGLE WIDENS as the DOORBELL RINGS; Peter comes dashing out from O.S., vaulting over the railing.

PETER
That's for me!

Janine holds out the phone, bringing him to a halt.

JANINE
So's this.

ON PETER

Momentarily unable to decide what to do. Egon ENTERS SHOT and takes the phone from Janine.

EGON
I've got it, Peter.

Peter looks at him gratefully.

PETER
You're a prince, Egon.

He runs O.S.

WIDE ANGLE

Ray and Winston ENTER SHOT as Egon converses on the phone.

EGON
Yes ... I see ... no problem, we can handle it.

He HANGS UP as Peter ENTERS SHOT, proudly escorting a very attractive and very impressed YOUNG WOMAN.

PETER
(briskly)
Okay, introductions. Candy, the Ghostbusters; the Ghostbusters, Candy.

CANDY
(awed)
Wow! I've heard so much about you guys!

PETER
(to others)
We've got a full day planned, so --

ANGLE FAVORS EGON

EGON
Sorry, Peter. We've got what sounds like a Class Seven Corporeal Entity at the library.

Ray reacts to this.

RAY
Uh-oh! I'll go warm up Ecto-1!

He dashes O.S. Egon follows. PUSH IN on Peter, Winston and Candy. Peter is, to put it mildly, upset.

PETER
It's not fair. It's just not fair.

Winston grins at him.

WINSTON
Hey -- you knew the job was dangerous when you took it.

He takes Peter's arm and leads him O.S. Candy watches all this in bewilderment. INCLUDE Janine, who watches with somewhat jaded sympathy.

CANDY
But -- but --

JANINE
Ghostbusters are heartbreakers, kid. Don't get too close to 'em.

CUT TO:

EXT. GHOSTBUSTERS' HQ - DAY

The garage door opens and ECTO-1 ROARS out of the firehouse and O.S., lights and SIRENS blazing.

PETER (V.O.)
I just hope Ray doesn't find another phantom librarian.

RAY (V.O.)
You're never gonna let me live that down, are you?

PETER (V.O.)
Never, Ray. Never.

CUT TO:

INT. LIBRARY EXHIBIT HALL - WIDE ANGLE

The Ghostbusters, loaded for boo, stand beside the broken display case with Ashton and Klein.

KLEIN
(fervently)
Thank heaven you've come! I'm Professor Ted Klein from Miskatonic University in Arkham, and this is Clark Ashton, in charge of the exhibit.

ASHTON
I'm sure there's no reason to be alarmed -- no doubt someone just stole the book for ransom.

PETER
Ransom? It's a book, Ashton, not the Lindbergh baby.

CLOSE ON EGON

He whips out his PKE meter and runs it over the pools of water and the kelp-like strands hanging from the display case. The meter goes wild. APPROPRIATE SFX.

EGON
High paranormal readings -- whoever stole the Necronomicon was more than just a common thief.

Klein steps INTO SHOT, wringing his hands.

KLEIN
We must get it back! Otherwise the city -- perhaps even the world -- is in grave peril!

ANGLE FAVORS PETER

Somewhat baffled by all this hoopla.

PETER
I don't see what all the fuss is about. It's just a book.

Ray looks at him gravely.

RAY
And an atomic bomb is just a couple of rocks slammed together.

WIDE ANGLE - ALL

EGON
(to Peter)
This is the only English translation of the Necronomicon. If someone were to read the spells in it aloud, the results would be catastrophic.
(beat; to Klein)
Were there any witnesses?

KLEIN
Just the watchman. He's still in shock -- keeps mumbling about a green monster.

Ray reacts to this.

RAY
Wow -- just like in the stories!

WINSTON
Let's hope this story has a happy ending.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Egon uses his PKE meter to follow the trail to the broken window. The meter reacts like a Geiger counter, picking up the residual eldritch force. APPROPRIATE SFX.

EGON
Should be easy enough to follow the trail.

The others start after him. Klein watches them go anxiously.

KLEIN
Please -- hurry!

EXT. LIBRARY - STREET

The Ghostbusters climb out the window one by one and follow Egon down the street. PAN WITH them. (PROD. NOTE: CONTINUE METER SF UNTIL NOTED.)

PETER
Sheesh, you'd think that guy Klein owns the paperback rights, the way he's carrying on.

EGON
He's right to worry, Peter. The Necronomicon's spells are like sonic "keys" that can open portals to other dimensions -- where the Great Old Ones wait to take over the Earth.

PETER
Yeah? Gimme an example.

EGON
Cthulhu.

PETER
Gesundheit.

ANGLE ON MANHOLE

The Ghostbusters ENTER SHOT and congregate around a manhole cover in the street.

WINSTON
Cthulhu -- I've heard of him. He's bad, right?

EGON
He makes Gozer look like Little Mary Sunshine.

Egon bends down and begins tugging on the manhole cover. Peter watches in dismay.

PETER
You're kidding. We're following them into the sewer?

EGON
There's no other choice.

ANOTHER ANGLE

He lifts up the cover and descends into the depths. Ray and Winston follow. Peter reluctantly brings up the rear.

PETER
I should've listened to my Uncle Alf and gone into the hardware business.

INT. SEWER - ESTABLISHING

PAN WITH the Ghostbusters as they SLOSH along through several inches of fetid water. Rats CHITTER and flee from the light. Egon leads the way, PKE meter in one hand and a flashlight in the other. The rest have their particle guns at the ready.

WINSTON
Peter, when we get back, I'm putting in for a raise.

PETER
Would you settle for a tetanus shot?

ON INTERSECTION

A junction of several tunnels. Egon suddenly stops.

EGON
Do you hear something?

PETER
I hope not.

They're silent. DIAL UP SFX: SLOSHING FOOTSTEPS. Eerie green light, like foxfire, begins to bleed in from the side tunnels.

RAY
Hey -- I think we've found them!

WIDE ANGLE

From out of the tunnels on all sides come green, phosphorescent creatures, easily seven feet tall, each one's face a mass of writhing tentacles below huge eyes. These are the SPAWN OF CTHULHU. I quote from Lovecraft's description of their boss, whom they resemble in every way except size: "A monster of vaguely anthropoid outline, but with an octopus-like head whose face was a mass of feelers,

a scaly, rubbery-looking body with prodigious claws on hind and fore feet, and long, narrow wings behind." They DRIP slime, and are generally pretty unspeakable. They shamble toward our guys.

WINSTON
Wrong, Ray -- I think they found us!

ANGLE ON GHOSTBUSTERS

The Ghostbusters stand with their backs to each other. They CLICK on their proton packs. SFX: RISING GENERATOR HUM.

PETER
Okay, let's him 'em high and low!

As one, they BLAST CHARGED-PARTICLE STREAMS O.S. in all directions.

ON SPAWN

All of them are BLOWN APART into chunks of green Jell-O. Green fog rises from the remains. Not a pretty sight. SFX: SQUEALS.

ON GHOSTBUSTERS

They look at each other in satisfaction.

PETER (CONT'D)
Teach 'em to mess with today's technology.

Egon suddenly reacts, pointing O.S.

EGON
Look!

ON SPAWN

The creatures reintegrate, the protoplasmic slime that forms them flowing back together. They start toward us again.

ON GHOSTBUSTERS

As they realize that they're in the toilet figuratively as well as literally. They look at each other in concern.

WINSTON
Think we can get our money back on these proton packs?

WIDE ANGLE - INCLUDING SPAWN

Quite close to our guys now.

PETER
Somebody think of something -- I just lost all my sanity points!

RAY
The water! If we can boil it --

As one, the Ghostbusters aim their particle guns at the scummy water they're standing in and ZAP BEAMS into it. Clouds of steam immediately arise, OBSCURING SHOT.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Spawn blunder around in the fog, COLLIDING with each other. SFX: confused SQUEALS.

INT. TUNNEL

Looking into the fogbound intersection. The Ghostbusters hustle out of the fog and into the tunnel.

EGON
Hurry!

They run O.S. After a beat, the Spawn emerge into view, pursuing them.

ON LADDER

A series of rungs leading up to another manhole. Winston scrambles up it, puts his shoulder to the cover. A shaft of light lances down. SFX: O.S. AUTO HORNS. The others crowd up the ladder behind him. Peter is the last; he faces the O.S Spawn, particle gun in hand.

PETER
Hurry! I'll hold 'em off!

He BLASTS a PARTICLE STREAM O.S.

ON SPAWN

Stalking toward us like extras in a George Romero film. Peter's BLAST DECIMATES several of them; the globs immediately begin reforming. SFX: SQUEALS.

RESUME GHOSTBUSTERS

Winston and Egon are out; Ray hustles up the ladder and Peter starts after him as the Spawn ENTER SHOT, reaching for him.

PETER (CONT'D)
These guys sure can't take a hint!

CLOSER ON PETER

He's halfway up the ladder, reaching for the top rung, when one of the Spawn seizes his boot and starts pulling him back.

PETER
Haalllp!!

EXT. STREET - ON GHOSTBUSTERS

Crowded around the manhole cover in the middle of the street. Several cars are stopped around them -- the makings of a major traffic jam. Winston reaches down and grabs Peter's hand just before the latter is pulled back. He tugs with all of his might.

WINSTON
(straining)
Hang -- on --!

CLOSE ON PETER'S BOOT

It abruptly comes off of his foot, causing the Spawn to tumble backwards, KNOCKING those crowded behind him over. SFX: SQUEALS. Peter is yanked up O.S.

EXT. STREET - AS BEFORE

Winston tumbles backwards as Peter sails up out of the hole and lands on top of him. Ray quickly SLAMS the manhole cover into place just as another Spawn pokes its head out. SFX: ANGRY O.S. SQUEAL, MUFFLED O.S. SPLASH.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Ghostbusters, muddy and disheveled, stand shakily. Peter is off-model by one boot.

PETER
Thanks, Winston. That was one party
I didn't mind leaving.

A taxi ENTERS SHOT and SCREECHES to a halt, HORN BLARING. Egon turns to it and raises his hand.

EGON
Taxi!

WIPE TO:

INT. GHOSTBUSTERS' HQ - LAB - WIDE ANGLE

Egon is viewing something under a very complex electron microscope apparatus. Ray is leafing through *Tobin's Spirit Guide*. Winston and Peter are relaxing on the couch.

EGON
Fascinating ...

PETER
Tell us all about it, Egon.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Egon stands.

EGON
The residuum of the creatures on our clothing is totally alien in composition.

Ray raises a finger -- "Eureka!"

RAY
Those green meanies match the description here of the Spawn of Cthulhu -- acolyte creatures that serve the Big Guy!

Egon nods.

EGON
I suspected as much. We have to find the Necronomicon at once.

ANGLE FAVORS PETER

Relaxing with his feet up.

PETER
What's the rush? We'll track it down sooner or later.

EGON
You don't understand. The Spawn are probably part of a Cult of Cthulhu -- and they might be planning to awaken him from his slumber on the ocean's floor.

Peter and Winston look at each other.

WINSTON
That's bad.

ANGLE FAVORS RAY

Still checking the *Guide*.

RAY
And according to this, the stars are in the right position to try such a resurrection only once every six hundred years -- and the next favorable time is --

PETER
(interrupting)
Let me guess -- tonight.

RAY
(surprised)
How'd you know?

ON EGON

Looking very grim about all this.

EGON
We need as much information on the Cult of Cthulhu as we can get.
(beat)
There's a woman named Alice Derelith up in Arkham Massachusetts who might be able to help us.

ANGLE INCLUDES ALL

The others stand up.

EGON
Ray, you and Winston continue your research here. Check the Book of Dyzan and the Pnakotic Manuscripts. Peter, you and I will go up to Arkham.

PETER
(dryly)
Sure. I've been wanting to go to Massachusetts all my life.

He and Egon head O.S. as we:

WIPE TO:

EXT. SKY - AERIAL SHOT - 747 - DAY

PAN WITH the big jet liner as it moves through the sky.
SFX: JET.

PETER (V.O.)
So, what's this Alice Derelith like?

EGON (V.O.)
A renowned academician and scholar, with a PhD in Occult Sciences.

INT. CABIN - ON EGON AND PETER

Both wearing suits.

EGON (CONT'D)
She translated the Mystery of the Worm from Latin.

PETER
Swell. I'll bet she looks like a tank and has a personality to match.

WIPE TO:

EXT. MISKATONIC UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - ESTABLISHING - DAY

A very Gothic-style campus; lots of gargoyles and flying buttresses -- sort of a Gormenghast with dormitories. Egon and Peter (wearing overcoats; it's a cloudy, chill New England day) head toward the Admin. Building. Peter looks around.

PETER
This looks like Frankenstein's alma mater.

ALICE (O.S.)
Dr. Spengler?

They both turn around; REFIELD to include ALICE DERELITH, a stunningly attractive young woman, professionally dressed but obviously not at all what Peter expected. She holds out her hand. Egon shakes it.

ALICE (CONT'D)
I'm Alice Derelith.

Peter is, of course, very favorably surprised. He shakes her hand.

PETER
Wow! You sure don't look smart!

ALICE
(puzzled)
I beg your pardon?

PETER
(hastily)
I mean -- uh, that is -- can we talk?

WIPE TO:

INT. CAMPUS CAFETERIA - ESTABLISHING - DAY

Egon, Peter and Alice sit at a table, nursing cups of coffee.

EGON
-- and that's the situation. What do you think?

ON ALICE

Not happy at the news.

ALICE
(quotes)
"That is not dead which can eternal lie, and with strange aeons even death may die."

INCLUDE PETER

He doesn't know what to make of this.

PETER
(straining to be complimentary)
Gee, that's ... catchy.

WIDE - ALL

ALICE
It's a quote from the Necronomicon about Great Cthulhu. If we don't do something quickly, this cult may succeed in awakening him from his age-long sleep.

She stands determinedly.

ALICE (CONT'D)
I'll go with you back to New York. Come on! There's not a moment to lose!

ANOTHER ANGLE

She hurries O.S. PUSH IN on Peter and Egon as they stand up.

PETER
She's a take-charge kinda lady. I like that.

They follow Alice O.S.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. EAST GREENWICH VILLAGE - ESTABLISHING - EVENING

Prominent IN SHOT is an occult shop in a large brownstone. Among the talismans, books on magic, etc., that fill the window is a large sign reading "CLOSED". Nevertheless, several people ENTER THE SHOP as we watch.

RAY (O.S.)
(sotto)
There it is.

PULL BACK to include the four Ghostbusters, in uniforms and packs, and Alice, now dressed more for this kind of work in jeans and a sweater.

WINSTON
Wagner's Occult Shop. We think this is where the cult is meeting.

EGON
Let's check it out.

INT. SHOP - WIDE ANGLE

It is dark, lined with shelves on which are a bewildering assortment of books, crystal balls, various salts and elixirs in containers, jars labeled "Bats' wings", "Toad livers", and the like. A human skeleton hangs in one corner. The place is deserted. The door BANGS open and the Ghostbusters leap in, particle guns at the ready. Alice is right behind them.

PETER
Looks like no one's home.

WINSTON
Listen!

CLOSER ON THEM

Faintly we can hear O.S. CHANTING.

CULT (O.S.)
(faintly)
<u>Iä! Iä! Cthulhu fatagn! Cthulhu fatagn!</u>

ANGLE INCLUDES BASEMENT DOOR

Egon points to it.

EGON
It's coming from the basement!

INT. BASEMENT - WIDE ANGLE

The Cult's ceremony in full swing -- a congregation of ROBED AND HOODED MEN AND WOMEN, gathered around a black altar carved with odd angles and unearthly designs on which the *Necronomicon* rests. The CULT LEADER, a big man wearing a robe with the green visage of Cthulhu emblazoned on it, stands behind the altar. A single hanging electric bulb dimly lights the scene.

CULT
(chants)
Iä! Iä! Cthulhu fatagn! Iä! Iä! Cthulhu fatagn!

Suddenly the Ghostbusters charge down the stairs in b.g.

WINSTON
This is a raid!

ON CULT LEADER

Reacting to this.

CULT LEADER
(shouts)
Duppira Askupati kutulu, alakti bi'sha!

ON GHOSTBUSTERS AND ALICE

Standing beside a brick wall. It suddenly BURSTS outward, sending bricks flying everywhere, as a huge amorphous blob-like CREATURE CRASHES into the basement. The Ghostbusters and Alice react in shock.

ALICE
A shoggoth!

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Cult Leader and his flock flee up the stairs in b.g. with the *Necronomicon*. The shoggoth extrudes tentacles which seize Alice and the Ghostbusters before the latter can use their particle guns. SFX: GURGLING, BUBBLING NOISES.

CLOSER

It raises them up over its quaking bulk. An orifice forms below them, like a pit lined with teeth. Let's draw the curtain on this upsetting scene ...

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. SHOP BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghostbusters and Alice as we left them, dangling over the gaping maw of the shoggoth. Our guys' arms are pinned to their sides, so they can't use their particle guns. The single electric bulb swings wildly on the end of its cord, sending shadows writhing over the tableau and driving the animators crazy.

ANGLE FAVORS ALICE

Being lowered slowly toward the glistening teeth.

ALICE
(chants)
Duppira al-kushni, askupati ani kalatum!

WIDE ANGLE - ALL

Mystic spell EFX suddenly SHIMMER around the shoggoth, PETRIFYING it. The tentacles holding our guys CRACK like icicles, and they all drop to the floor.

FAVORING PETER AND ALICE

Peter looks at Alice in respectful surprise.

PETER
Did you do that?

Alice nods weakly, then staggers. Peter takes her arm, supporting her.

PETER (CONT'D)
Hey, hey ... easy ...

Alice puts a hand to her forehead, then stands again, recovering her strength.

ALICE
(weakly)
I'm ... all right. Spellcasting takes a lot out of one.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Ray and Egon are looking at the frozen mass of the shoggoth with interest. Winston dusts himself off.

WINSTON
Looks like we're back to square one. The cult's beat it.

PETER
Right. We'd better think of something fast, before --

FAVORING EGON AND PETER

Peter notices that Egon is breaking off a small piece of the shoggoth's petrified tissue and putting it in a baggie for later study. Peter, abruptly fed up, snatches the baggie away from Egon, who reacts in sheepish surprise.

PETER (CONT'D)
(exasperated)
Will you stop that? Now listen -- whatta we do to stop them from whistling up the Big Guy?

ON RAY

Thoughtful.

RAY
Good question.
(to Alice)
Can't you perform some kind of counterspell to stop the cult?

ON ALICE

She shakes her head emphatically.

ALICE
I'd be a fool to try. The ancient knowledge is a two-edged sword -- there are other Great Old Ones lurking outside time and space.

ANGLE INCLUDES OTHERS

Listening.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Any time a spell is cast, we run the risk of Opening the Door.

PETER
Right, we don't want to do that.
(beat)
So what are we gonna do?

FAVORING RAY

He SNAPS his fingers.

RAY
I've got an idea! Listen ...

WIPE TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - TRACKING ECTO-1 - NIGHT

The ghostmobile moves through traffic. SFX: ENGINE.

WINSTON (V.O.)
Ray, that is the craziest idea I ever heard.

INT. ECTO-1 - WIDE ANGLE - MOVING

Ray driving, Winston in the front passenger seat, with Peter, Egon and Alice in the back.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
You really think some old science fiction stories can save the world?

RAY
Listen -- H.P. Lovecraft and other writers back in the Twenties and Thirties created a whole mythos around Cthulhu.

ANGLE FAVORS PETER

He looks skeptical.

RAY (CONT'D)
And I remember one story in an old issue of Weird Tales that told how to defeat him.

PETER
Ray, you nut you, I think your brain's turned to --

ALICE
(interrupting)
It just might work. Those writers used the Necronomicon as research for their fiction.

PETER
(smoothly)
As I was saying, Ray, I think it's
(MORE)

PETER (CONT'D)
a great idea. I'm excited to be a part of it.

EXT. CITY STREET - TRACKING ECTO-1 - DAY

EGON (V.O.)
But where can we find a collection of old pulp magazines?

RAY (V.O.)
Leave it to me.

The car SCREECHES around a corner and down a side street.

WIPE TO:

EXT. BRONX - RUN-DOWN NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Ecto-1 pulls up before a broken-down old Victorian house, incongruous amidst all the tenements. It looks like the Addams Family summer home.

CLOSER ON ECTO-1

The Ghostbusters and Alice get out. Ray runs up the steps O.S. The others follow somewhat less happily. Peter looks askance at the ominous mansion.

PETER
This joint would scare Stephen King.

ON FRONT PORCH

Ray lifts the demon's head knocker and lets it fall with a portentous CLANG.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The door CREAKS open, revealing MR. HOWARD, a wizened, gnomish little man -- a cross between Peter Lorre and Gollum.

MR. HOWARD
(asthmatic voice)
Yess?

RAY
Mr. Howard! Remember me -- Ray Stantz? I used to borrow your books when I was a kid.

MR. HOWARD
Of course. Come in -- and bring your friends.

They enter -- Ray enthusiastically, the rest with considerable trepidation.

INT. MR. HOWARD'S HOUSE - ESTABLISHING PAN

Even better (or worse) than we would have expected. The gloomy living room is packed to the rafters with piles of books, both paperback and hardcover; pulp and slick magazines and newspapers as well as strange, fantastic paintings by everyone from Bosch and Albright to Frazetta and Findlay. It is, in short, every serious fantasy and horror collector's wet dream -- a cornucopia of pulpdom. PAN ends at the Ghostbusters and Alice, looking about in varying degrees of delight and horror.

RAY
(tickled pink)
Didn't I tell you? And this is only one room!

FAVORING PETER

He pulls a yellowing pulp magazine with a lurid cover from shelf, narrowly avoiding bringing an entire stack crashing down.

PETER
(to Mr. Howard)
I don't suppose you have these in any sort of order?

MR. HOWARD
(regretfully)
Well -- I always intended to organize my collection, but ...

PETER
Swell.

ANOTHER ANGLE

He BLOWS a thick patina of dust off of another stack.

PETER
(herculean sneeze)

WIPE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - WIDE ANGLE - GHOSTBUSTERS AND ALICE

All sitting in chairs or on the floor, surrounded by piles of pulp magazines. They look pretty overwhelmed.

WINSTON
This is ridiculous. We've been at this for hours.

PETER
There must be a whole forest's worth of paper here.

FAVORING ALICE

She finishes glancing through another pulp magazine and drops it on a large pile to one side of her.

ALICE
We can't give up. If Ray's right, it's our only chance to stop the Summoning.

She wearily picks up another magazine and begins to leaf through it.

ON RAY

Absorbed in another old magazine. He turns a page, then stops.

RAY
(air of discovery)
Hey ...

ANGLE WIDENS to include the others, who look at him expectantly.

RAY (CONT'D)
This one's really good! It's about the Fungi from Yuggoth ...

ANOTHER ANGLE

Peter snatches the magazine away from Ray.

PETER
Will you <u>try</u> to concentrate?

RAY
(chastened)
Sorry.

FAVORING WINSTON

He stands up in disgust, brushing the dust of ages from him.

WINSTON
We're getting nowhere. I vote we just wait for Cthulhu to show up and then blast 'im.

PETER
Winston's got a point. Something that looks like a cross between Godzilla and a giant octopus won't be hard to miss.

ON ALICE

Reading a yellowing issue of *Weird Tales*. Suddenly she stands.

ALICE
This is it! It's called "The Horror from the Depths."

WIDE ANGLE - ALL

The others turn to her. Ray leaps to his feet and grabs the magazine from her, thumbing through it.

RAY
That's the one, all right. Let's go!

They all hurry O.S.

WIPE TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - TRACKING ECTO-1 - NIGHT

Tooling down through Queens, heading south.

EGON (V.O.)
According to my calculations ...

INT. ECTO-1 - FAVORING EGON - MOVING

Checking his PKE meter against his pocket computer. APPROPRIATE SFX.

EGON (CONT'D)
The most opportune place for the cult to perform the summoning ceremony is the southern tip of Brooklyn.
(beat)
Coney Island, to be exact.

PETER
That seems oddly appropriate.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Everyone anxiously watching the city lights go by.

PETER
Can't you make this heap go any faster, Ray?

RAY
Got my foot through the floorboard now.

WINSTON
How'll we know if we don't get there on time?

ALICE
(grimly)
You'll know it. The whole world will know it.

There's an uneasy silence as everyone contemplates this. Then abruptly: BANG! ECTO-1 swerves as Ray fights the wheel.

GROUP
(ad lib shouts of concern)

EXT. STREET - WIDE

ECTO-1, with one very flat front tire, limps to the curb. The Ghostbusters and Alice climb out. Winston looks at the tire in disgust, then at Peter.

WINSTON
I thought you were supposed to have the tires rotated.

PETER
(sheepishly)
I figured -- why bother? They rotate enough when the car's moving.

ON WINSTON

He CLAPS a hand to his face in a classic Edgar Kennedy slow burn.

WINSTON
(disgusted groan)

CLOSER

Ray ENTERS SHOT with a jack.

RAY
No problem -- we'll just put on the spare and --

PETER
(reluctantly)
That was the spare.

WIDE - ALL

As one, they turn to glare at him.

CUT TO:

INT. SUBWAY CAR - ON GHOSTBUSTERS AND ALICE

Straphanging on the Nassau Street Local and looking pretty annoyed about it all. SFX: SUBWAY RUMBLE. The lights flicker occasionally. The car isn't crowded, but those few there represent the usual interesting cross-section of Brooklyn life -- a couple of OLD LADIES with shopping bags, a STUDENT or two, and of course, the usual complement of tough STREET PUNKS, one carrying a ghetto blaster playing LOUD ROCK AND ROLL. (PROD NOTE: MUSIC AND SUBWAY SFX CONTINUE THROUGH SCENE.) The punks are looking at the Ghostbusters with varying degrees of hostility. One of them swaggers up to Peter.

PUNK
(truculently)
Yo, Jack -- where the costume party happenin'?

PETER
Back off, man. I'm a Ghostbuster.

PUNK
(laughs)
Yeah? I thought you was an astronaut or somethin'!

CLOSER ON THEM

Winston steps closer to Peter, swaying with the rhythm of the moving car.

WINSTON
You want, we can send you to the moon easy enough.

Both of them eye the punk levelly. The punk has second thoughts and swaggers back to his seat.

ON GHOSTBUSTERS AND ALICE

All of them very aware that time is rapidly running out.

EGON
(to Alice)
Do you think we'll make it?

ALICE
We have to, that's all. We have to.

WIPE TO:

EXT. CONEY ISLAND - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

A STORM is brewing. The boardwalk and shops are silent and deserted. PAN TO a subway kiosk as the five hustle up the steps, particle guns at the ready. Ray has the pulp magazine tucked in his belt.

PETER
Okay -- now what?

ON EGON

Sweeping his PKE meter back and forth in a flat arc. SFX: INCREASING CLICKS. Egon points O.S.

EGON
That way.

Distant lightning flickers. There's an ominous RUMBLE OF THUNDER.

ON BOARDWALK

The Ghostbusters and Alice come around a corner and stop. SFX: BREAKERS.

CULT (O.S.)
(chanting)
<u>Iä! Iä! Cthulhu fatagn!</u>

REFIELD to include the beach, with Steeplechase Pier in b.g. The hooded members of the cult are gathered in a semicircle on the beach, facing the water. The Cult Leader stands before them, almost at the waves' edge, holding the *Necronomicon* in both hands over his head. The book GLOWS with power.

CULT LEADER
(shouts)
Dulimeen Cthulhu, talgath k'en tobari!

PUSH IN on the water. A hundred yards off shore it begins to BUBBLE and BOIL dramatically. LIGHTNING CRACKLES overhead. A eerie green light can be seen growing beneath the water.

ON GHOSTBUSTERS AND ALICE

The ground TREMBLES and ROCKS beneath them; they have trouble keeping their balance. Ray reacts in horror to what he sees in the O.S. ocean.

RAY
Oh, no!

THEIR POV - OCEAN

As GREAT CTHULHU rises from the deep! He looks just like his spawn save that he's a hundred feet tall. Water CASCADES down his loathsome glowing form, and LIGHTNING provides fitful, hellish illumination. SFX: THUNDER.

RESUME GHOSTBUSTERS AND ALICE

Reacting in shock and horror.

WINSTON
I think we're too late!

PETER
What gave you the first clue?

PANORAMIC SHOT - BEACH AND CTHULHU

The Big Guy shambles through the surf, shaking the ground with his THUNDEROUS TREAD. The cult members flee in panic, narrowly avoiding being trampled.

CULT MEMBERS
(ad lib cries of fear)

WIDE ANGLE - GHOSTBUSTERS, ALICE AND CTHULHU

The Great Old One's enormous bulk heads toward Astroland Amusement Park in b.g. The Ghostbusters aim their particle guns.

EGON
Full stream -- now!

They BLAST away at Cthulhu.

ON CTHULHU

The BEAMS STRIKE him, carving out gobbets of green, pulsating flesh which fall O.S. The wounds immediately heal over.

RAY (O.S.)
It's not working!

ON GHOSTBUSTERS

They SHUT OFF their particle guns.

WINSTON
We are in serious trouble!

ALICE
There's one thing left to try.

She runs O.S. before the others can stop her.

PETER
Alice --!

WIDE ANGLE - ON CTHULHU

Moving with ponderous, EARTHSHAKING GAIT toward the amusement park. Alice, tiny in comparison, runs INTO SHOT and stands before the gigantic creature.

CLOSER ON ALICE

She raises her arms.

ALICE
(shouts)
Itaka thotura Nodens! Itaka thotura Nodens!

LOW-ANGLE SHOT - CTHULHU

The flickering LIGHTS of the spell play momentarily about Cthulhu, but with a wave of his facial tentacles he disperse them. He reaches down O.S. for Alice.

ON GHOSTBUSTERS

Realizing they've got to do something fast.

WINSTON
Aim for the head! Maybe we can blind him!

They FIRE FULL STREAM O.S. once again.

ON ALICE

Backing up in terror as Cthulhu's mighty claws open over her -- then the CHARGED-PARTICLE STREAMS LANCE INTO SHOT, STRIKING Cthulhu about the head and face. One stream SEVERS a tentacle.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The tentacle HITS the sand, where it DISSOLVES into a pool of green slime.

ON CTHULHU

He turns toward us, forgetting Alice.

ON GHOSTBUSTERS

They SHUT OFF their particle guns again.

PETER
Uh-oh. I think we made him mad!

EGON
Run for it!

They dash O.S.

ON EGON AND WINSTON

They run THROUGH SHOT as one of Cthulhu's enormous webbed feet CRASHES down where they were.

ON RAY

He looks up, reacts, then leaps O.S. An instant later a huge claw rakes THROUGH SHOT, talons plowing the sand.

ON BOARDWALK

The Ghostbusters and Alice regroup together near the barren entrance to a video arcade.

WINSTON
Sometimes I really regret answering that ad you guys ran!

PETER
Egon? Whatta you got?

FAVORING EGON

In f.g. In b.g. we can see Cthulhu, already losing interest in the insignificant human gnats, resuming his course inland. Ego aims the PKE meter at Cthulhu. The SFX MERGE into a HIGH-PITCHED WHINE.

EGON
His power is completely off the scale. None of our equipment can even begin to stop him. We don't have a prayer.

ON PETER

He looks skyward.

PETER
You're such a pollyanna, Egon.

FAVORING ALICE AND RAY

Ray still as the old issue of *Weird Tales* stuffed in his belt. Alice notices it, points to it.

ALICE
Ray! The story in the magazine!

Ray's eyes go wide.

RAY
I forgot about it!

CLOSER

He snatches the magazine out, opens it.

WIDE ANGLE - CTHULHU AND AMUSEMENT PARK

Cthulhu RENDS the giant ferris wheel apart with his claws.

RESUME GHOSTBUSTERS

Waiting anxiously as Ray skims the story.

WINSTON
Great. He moves his lips when he reads.

FAVORING RAY

He points to the page triumphantly.

RAY
Ah-hah! It says here that they lured Cthulhu to an electrical plant and blasted him with a hundred gigavolts of electricity!

WINSTON
So? Did it work?

Ray holds up the magazine. We can see the ragged stub of a torn page.

RAY
I don't know! The last page is missing!

ON BOARDWALK

The Ghostbusters and Alice venture cautiously out. We can hear the O.S. SOUND of Cthulhu's RAMPAGE, as well as THUNDER from the impending storm.

PETER
Where can we get that kind of power?

O.S. LIGHTNING CRACKLES.

EGON
There's one chance --

ON CTHULHU

Passing the huge Cyclone rollercoaster.

EGON (O.S. CONT'D)
If we can lure him near the rollercoaster, we can use our particle beams to ionize the metal tracks.

RESUME GHOSTBUSTERS AND ALICE

EGON (CONT'D)
That might attract a lightning bolt.

RAY
It's worth a try.

ALICE
But how do we get Cthulhu near the rollercoaster?

FAVORING PETER

He raises a finger as an idea occurs to him.

PETER
I've got an idea -- a very crazy idea.

CUT TO:

EXT. BASE OF ROLLERCOASTER - CONTROL BOOTH

Peter runs INTO SHOT and uses his particle gun to BLAST the booth's door to splinters. He leans inside.

CLOSE ON PANEL

He reaches in and throws a switch. SFX: CONTROLS POWERING UP.

LONG SHOT - CTHULHU AND ROLLERCOASTER

Cthulhu's about to pass it when suddenly all the lights go on, flashing brightly. The Big Guy stops, confused.

ON LINE OF CARS

Peter leaps from the platform into the front car. The cars head O.S. with a RATTLE OF TRACKS.

ON PETER - MOVING

Standing with difficulty in the swaying car, clutching his weapon.

PETER
Okay, squid-face -- I'm gonna make calamari outta you!

He readies his particle gun.

TRACKING SHOT - PETER

Rising up in f.g., climbing a steep grade. In b.g., Cthulhu comes into view. LIGHTNING backlights him.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Peter ZAPS A PARTICLE BEAM at the monster.

ON CTHULHU

The BEAM LICKS over his chest and shoulders, stinging him. He turns toward the rollercoaster, raises a huge claw.

ON CARS - TRACKING

Peter ducks as the claw descends INTO SHOT, barely missing the cars and DEMOLISHING the section of track just traversed.

ON RAY, EGON, WINSTON AND ALICE

They react to the O.S. drama, wincing in apprehension.

WINSTON
He's gotta get off the track! We can't electrify it until he does!

Alice runs O.S.

ON PLATFORM

The cars RATTLE to a stop. Peter leaps out. Alice runs INTO SHOT to meet him.

PETER
Boy -- talk about an E-ticket ride.

She grabs his arm and pulls him O.S. at a run.

ON CTHULHU

Momentarily trapped within the maze of tracks and girders, he FOUNDERS about, SMASHING sections of it much the same way the Rhedosaurus in *The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms* did. THUNDER RUMBLES again.

DRAMATIC ANGLE - EGON, RAY, WINSTON

As one, they CLICK on their particle guns.

EGON
<u>Now</u>!

They FIRE O.S.

LONG SHOT - ROLLERCOASTER

The BEAMS STRIKE the metal tracks of the rollercoaster, ELECTRIFYING it. It begins to GLOW. Cthulhu reacts, struggling to break free.

BACK TO SHOT

Peter and Alice run INTO SHOT. Peter adds his PARTICLE BEAM to the others'.

RAY
More power! If he breaks free
before the lightning strikes --!

The four CRACKLING BEAMS INCREASE to near-blinding intensity. The Ghostbusters brace themselves like firefighters wrestling high-pressure hoses.

ON CTHULHU AND ROLLERCOASTER

Cthulhu SMASHES through the girders, SNAPPING them like matchsticks. He's almost clear when --

AERIAL SHOT - CLOUDS

A massive BOLT OF LIGHTNING CRACKLES DOWN O.S.

AS BEFORE - CTHULHU AND ROLLERCOASTER

The LIGHTNING BOLT STRIKES the rollercoaster, enveloping it and Cthulhu in a BLINDING PYROTECHNIC DISPLAY OF UNLEASHED ENERGY -- and Cthulhu SCREAMS! This is the first sound we've heard him make, and it is ABSOLUTELY UNEARTHLY: like METAL BEING RIPPED, like the SHRILL WHISTLING OF STEAM, like the BUBBLING OF LAVA ALL COMBINED AND MAGNIFIED ...

ON GHOSTBUSTERS AND ALICE

They stagger backwards, almost literally blown away by the light washing INTO FRAME and the PIERCING SOUND ...

ON CTHULHU

Fighting back, SHRIEKING as he rises to his full, awesome height. We almost believe he might overcome nature's fury -- and then ANOTHER LIGHTNING BOLT STRIKES, and yet ANOTHER, MELTING Cthulhu into a cloud of green luminescent gas that mushrooms upward, writhing as though still alive ...

ON GHOSTBUSTERS AND ALICE

The hellish light dims, and they look up O.S., dazed.

LONG SHOT - OCEAN

The glowing cloud that was Cthulhu is drifting back out to sea, already being dispersed by the wind. It's over.

ON GHOSTBUSTERS AND ALICE

They slowly help each other to their feet, somewhat stunned.

PETER
Well -- now we know how the story ended.

WINSTON
Yeah -- and somebody wants to talk to us about it.

He points O.S. The others look and react.

OVERHEAD SHOT - INCLUDING CULT MEMBERS

Surrounding our gang, led by the Cult Leader, still holding the *Necronomicon*.

CULT MEMBERS
(angry walla)

The Ghostbusters wearily raise their particle guns again -- and suddenly the SOUND OF SIRENS DIALS UP, and as many SQUAD CARS as we can afford roll INTO SHOT from all sides, lights flashing. The cult members react in dismay.

CLOSE ON GHOSTBUSTERS

They resheathe their particle guns and grin at each other.

PETER
Better late than never.

ON CULT LEADER

Flanked by two POLICEMEN. The Ghostbusters and Alice step INTO SHOT. Alice takes the *Necronomicon* from him while Winston pulls the hood off, revealing -- Clark Ashton! Everyone reacts in surprise.

RAY
Clark Ashton! Boy, you can't trust anybody!

ASHTON
(raving)
Fools! You may have won this time, but Cthulhu cannot be destroyed! He waits and dreams in the deep, and the cities of man shall fall before him!

PETER
Yeah, sure.
(to cops)
Book him, boys.

The cops lead him away, as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GHOSTBUSTERS' HQ - MORNING

PUSH IN as we hear:

ALICE (V.O.)
I'll take the Necronomicon back to Miskatonic University with me ...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RECEPTION AREA - WIDE ANGLE - GHOSTBUSTERS AND ALICE

The Ghostbusters in civvies, and Alice back in her career woman garb.

ALICE (CONT)
-- where it can't be used for evil.

EGON
Do you think Cthulhu was destroyed, Ms. Derelith?

ALICE
Even if he wasn't, the stars are no longer right for him to awaken. The world is safe again -- for a time.
(beat)
I must be going.

ANGLE FAVORS PETER

He steps forward hastily.

PETER
What's your hurry? Why not let me show you the town for a few days?

ALICE
(hesitating)
Well, there are some things going on that I'd be interested in seeing, if you don't mind ...

PETER
Mind? Of course not!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Alice takes his arm and starts to lead him O.S.

ALICE
Wonderful! We'll start by seeing the exhibit of the Eltdown Shards at the Natural History Museum ...

Peter reacts, surprised.

PETER
Uh, that wasn't exactly what I had in mind ...

ALICE
(ignoring him)
And there's a lecture on the Zanthu Tablets and other pre-Druidic petroglyphs at Columbia ...

ANGLE INCLUDES OTHERS

Watching with wide grins as Alice steers a feebly-protesting Peter towards the door in b.g.

PETER
Listen, there's this great restaurant I know ... you'd like it, really ... or a movie, how about a movie ...?

And we --

FADE OUT.

THE END